Holiday Driving Tips

Don't drink and drive. No matter if you are attending a holiday gathering close to home or if you are on a road trip, drinking and driving is never a good idea. Play it safe and have a designated driver to drive you home or call for a cab.

Buckle Up! Wearing seatbelts every time you drive is the easiest way to help keep you and your family safe in the event of an accident. If you are traveling with small children make sure they are in a proper <u>car or booster seat</u> for their age group and height.

Watch your speed! State and local police officers are out in full force during holiday weekends. So make sure to obey the speed limits and keep a safe distance between the cars in front of you! Remember, a speeding ticket can mean points on your driver's license and a potential increase in your auto insurance rate.

Check your tires. Inspect your tires before you head out on your trip. Make sure to check the tire pressure in your tires. Many drivers fail to do this – and low tire levels can potentially cost them more money in gas to fuel their car. It is also a good idea to have your tires rotated by a professional mechanic before you leave on a long trip.

Make sure your battery has enough juice. If it has been a few years since you replaced your car battery, you might want to do so before you leave on your holiday vacation. It is better to be safe than sorry when you are traveling far from home.

Turn on your lights. Something many of us fail to check before leaving for vacation are headlights, tail lights and turn signals. To ensure everything is working properly, have a family member or friend walk around the car while you test the car lights and signals from the inside.

Pack a first aid kit and roadside assistance kit. It's always a good idea to keep a first aid kit and a roadside assistance kit in your car at all times. You never know what could happen, so it is better to play it safe. While you're at it, consider packing a cooler of water, a flash light, non-perishable food and extra batteries.

Check the weather. If you get caught in a torrential downpour, pull off to the side of the road or to a rest area until the rain has stopped. And if the area you are in floods, don't try to drive through it, find an alternative route. You may have to back track a bit, but it will be worth it in the long run.